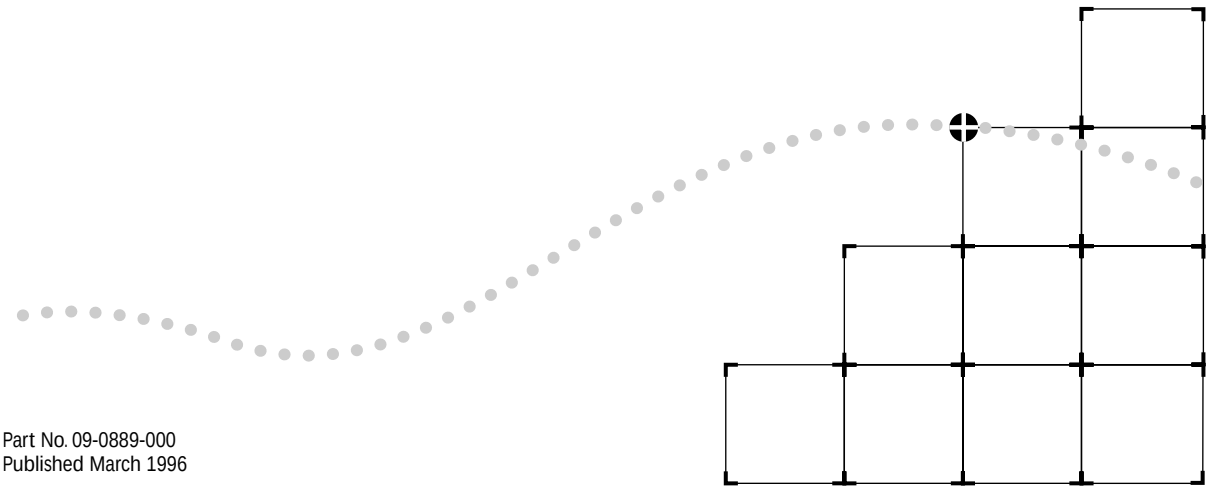
LINKBUILDER® FMS™ 100-TX HUB USER GUIDE

A member of the 3Com LinkBuilder FMS family



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About This Guide

Introduction

This guide describes how to mount the 3Com® LinkBuilder® FMS™ 100-TX Hub in a rack, install the hub on the network, and interpret the hub's front panel LEDs. It also describes, in general terms, the functioning of the hub in a Fast Ethernet network environment.

How to Use This Guide

The following table shows where to find specific information in this guide.

If you are looking for:	Turn to:
General information about the hub	Chapter 1
Instructions for mounting the hub	Chapter 2
Instructions for connecting the hub to the network	Chapter 3
Information about interpreting LEDs	Chapter 3
Information about the hub's transceiver interface modules	Chapter 3
Information about cabling requirements	Chapter 4
Information on hub specifications	Appendix A
Information about 3Com's technical support services	Appendix B

Conventions

The following table lists the notice icons that are used throughout this guide.

Icon	Type	Description
	Information Note	Information notes call attention to important features or instructions.
	Caution	Cautions alert you to personal safety risk, system damage, or loss of data.
	Warning	Warnings alert you to the risk of severe personal injury.

1 INTRODUCTION

The LinkBuilder® FMS™ 100-TX Hub is a member of the 3Com® SuperStack™ system of stackable network devices. The 100 designation refers to 100BASE-T Fast Ethernet, which is an extension of the Ethernet IEEE 802.3 specifications. The 100BASE-T specification supports the following 100 Mbps media options:

- 100BASE-TX (two-pair Category 5 UTP cabling)
- 100BASE-T4 (four-pair Category 3, 4, or 5 UTP cabling)
- 100BASE-FX (two-strand fiber cabling)

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub complies with the definition of a Class I repeater provided in the IEEE 802.3 standard. Refer to the section "Classification of Repeaters" in Chapter 3 for a description of the IEEE 802.3 repeater classification.

This guide discusses the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub and the 100BASE-TX and 100BASE-FX transceiver interface modules.

General Description

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub, which functions as a network repeater and supports 100 Mbps connectivity, has 12 dedicated RJ-45 twisted-pair ports on its front panel, as shown in Figure 1-1. A media-flexible transceiver interface module port on the hub's rear panel is designated the thirteenth port.

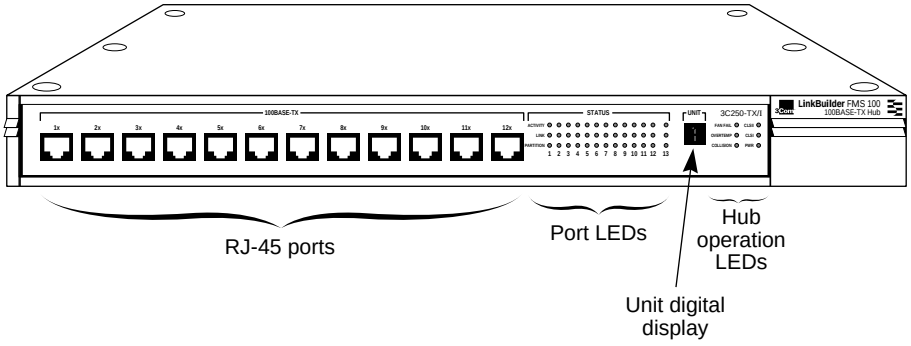

Figure 1-1 Front Panel of LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub

Each port (including the thirteenth port) is supplied with three LEDs that provide activity, link, and partition status information. Additional LEDs provide repeater classification, environmental, and port status information. (Refer to Chapter 3 for the interpretation of LEDs.)

The hub's rear panel (Figure 1-2) has a slot for a 3Com transceiver interface module, which (as the thirteenth port) provides media flexibility and accessibility to the hub. This slot can also be left empty, if desired, with no connection (no module attached).

Two types of transceiver interface modules are available and must be purchased separately:

- 100BASE-TX Category 5 UTP module (3C252-TX)
- 100BASE-FX Fiber module (3C262-FX)

Additional modules may be supported in the future.

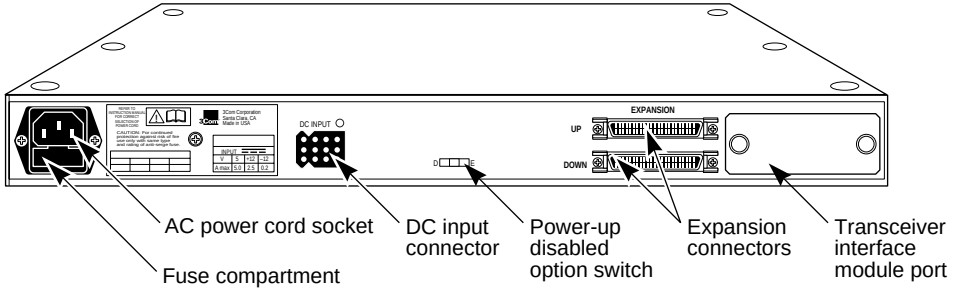

Figure 1-2 Rear Panel of LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub

The two expansion connectors are used for adding components (additional hubs or a Management Unit) to create a hub stack. The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub can be used as a stand-alone repeater or as a stacked unit with other LinkBuilder FMS 100 Hubs. Stacking units provides the benefit of a higher port count, with the stack functioning as a single logical repeater. Up to eight units (for example, seven hubs and a Management Unit) can be connected together in a stack.

The rear panel of the hub provides a three-pronged socket for attaching a 100–240 V AC power cord to the hub. Alternatively, power can be supplied through a 3Com Redundant Power System (RPS) connected to the DC input connector. Refer to the section "Using the Redundant Power System" in Chapter 2 for additional information.

A 2 A, 250 V fast-blow fuse is located in the hub's AC receptacle.

You can mount the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub in a 19-inch standard rack or you can place it as a stand-alone unit on a desk or table. A rack-mounting kit is supplied with each hub.

Management Unit

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub can support a Management Unit to provide full SNMP manageability to a hub stack. The Management Unit is designed for inclusion in 3Com's SuperStack family of stackable network devices and can also be connected to the Redundant Power System (RPS). If a Management Unit is included in a stack, a maximum of seven hubs is allowed in the stack — that is, one Management Unit plus seven repeaters for a total of eight components, the maximum number of components allowed in one hub stack.

Only one Management Unit can be attached to each stack.

Hub Functions

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub supports the standard functions of an IEEE 802.3 repeater, as listed in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Supported IEEE 802.3 Repeater Functions

Standard Repeater Function	Description
Signal retiming	Restores the timing and amplitude of the received signal before retransmitting the signal.
Carrier integrity monitor	Examines the packets being received for invalid framing; blocks excessive invalid frames to prevent them from harming the network.
Jabber control	Inhibits overly long transmissions of data generated by station hardware failure. This function is activated once a received packet has exceeded the jabber threshold. Refer to the 802.3u specification for additional information.
Automatic partition/ reconnection	Prevents the faulty segment's carrier activity from reaching the hub and being propagated throughout the network.

2 INSTALLING THE FMS 100-TX HUB

This chapter discusses the following topics:

- Unpacking the hub
- Positioning the hub
- Installing the hub
- Installing the transceiver interface modules
- Using the Redundant Power System
- Replacing the fuse

Unpacking the Hub

When unpacking the hub, follow these steps:

1. Open the shipping container and carefully remove its contents.
2. Return all packing materials to the shipping container and save it.

   If the hub must be returned, ship it in its original shipping container (or one providing equivalent protection), or the warranty will be voided.
3. Verify that you have received all items that are shipped with the hub, as listed below.
4. Inspect each item for damage. If you find any omissions or damage, contact your network supplier and the carrier that delivered the package.

   Each LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX hub is shipped with the following:

   - Rack mounting kit containing two brackets and four screws
   - Four rubber feet for desktop placement
   - AC power cord

If you ordered one or more transceiver interface modules, they will be packaged separately from the hub.

Positioning the Hub

When deciding where to place the hub, make sure the environment meets the following conditions:

- The hub is accessible and cables can be connected easily.

  For help in planning your network configuration and the location of the hub, refer to Chapters 3 and 4 for information on connecting the hub to the network and the required cabling types and lengths. Read this material before locating the hub permanently.

- Cabling is away from:
  - Sources of electrical noise, such as HVAC, radios, transmitters, and broadband amplifiers
  - Power lines and fluorescent lighting fixtures
- Water or moisture cannot enter the hub's case.
- Airflow around the unit and through the vents is not restricted. Provide a minimum of 1 inch (2.5 cm) clearance on all four sides of the unit.
- No objects are placed directly on top of any stack or unit other than another stackable device.

Installing the Hub

This section discusses hub installation. You can install the hub in a standard 19-inch rack or on a desk or table.

WARNING: *3Com strongly recommends that you install the hub stack in a rack, particularly if you intend to use more than four hubs in the stack. Since each hub weighs 12 pounds (5.5 kg), the total weight of eight hubs (the maximum hub stack), plus the possible addition of two RPSs, would be more than 100 pounds (45.5 kg). For maximum safety, this combination of units should be installed in the lower part of a rack. If placed on a desk or table, be certain that the furniture is sturdy enough to support the weight.*

Rack Mounting

The hub is supplied with two brackets and four screws for rack mounting in a standard 19-inch rack. The four rubber feet that are shipped with each hub are not used for rack mounting.

To mount the hub in a rack, follow these steps, which assume you are stacking two or more hubs in a rack:

1. Place one of the hubs on a level surface, with the front panel facing you.
2. Position a bracket over the mounting holes on one side of the unit, as shown in Figure 2-1.

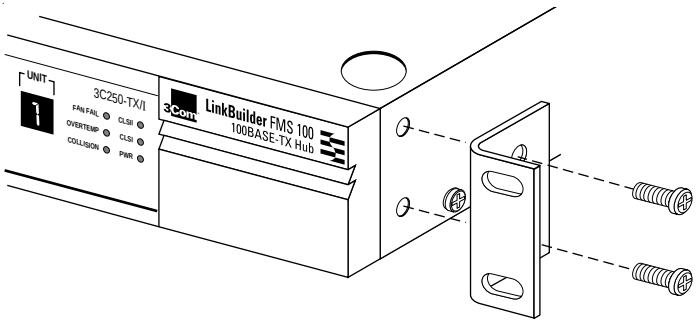

Figure 2-1 Attaching a Bracket for Rack Mounting

3. Insert the two screws and tighten with a screwdriver.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the other side of the hub.
5. Mount the hub in the rack and secure it with suitable screws, as shown in Figure 2-2.

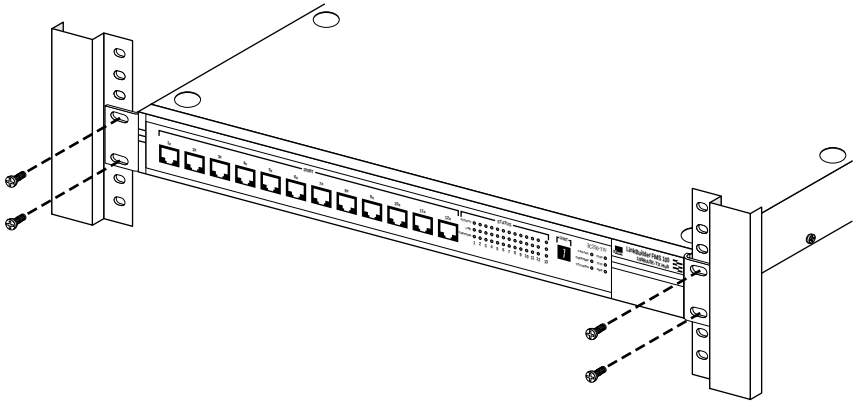

Figure 2-2 Rack Mounting a Single Hub

6 Attach brackets to both sides of the other hubs to be rack-mounted, as described in steps 2 through 4.

7 Insert each hub into the rack and fasten each one individually to the rack uprights, as shown in Figure 2-3.

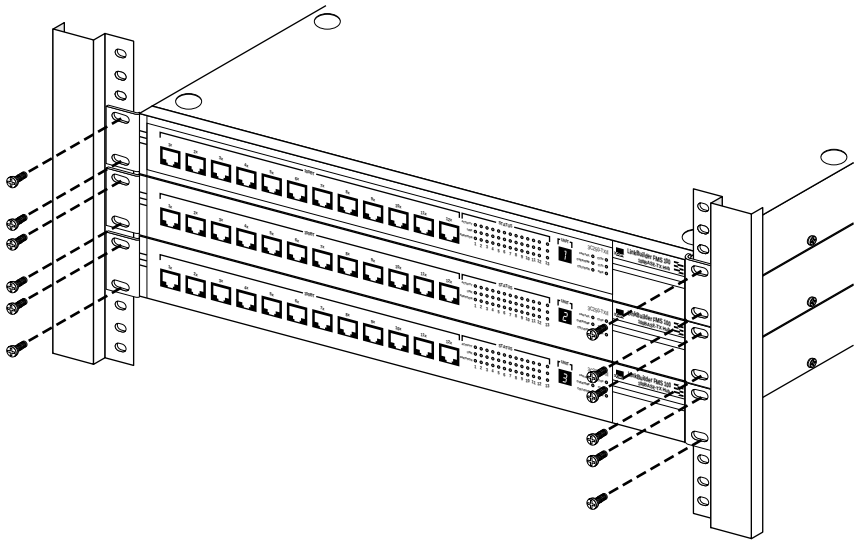

Figure 2-3 Installing a Hub Stack in a Rack

8 Repeat steps 2 through 7 when placing additional hubs in the stack.

A single hub stack can contain up to eight units (eight hubs, or seven hubs and one Management Unit) and two Redundant Power Systems.

9 For each hub, plug one end of the power cord into the AC power connector and the other end into a power source. (Refer to the section "Using the Redundant Power System" for information on installing the Redundant Power System.)

All the LEDs should light momentarily. Verify that the PWR (power) LED remains ON, indicating that the hub is receiving power.

See Chapter 3 for information about connecting the stack to the network and interpreting LEDs.

Desktop Placement

If you place the hub on a desk or table, attach the supplied rubber feet to each bottom corner of the hub. If you stack additional hubs on top of the bottom one, place rubber feet on the bottom of each corner of each hub in the outline shown on the unit's base.

To prevent hubs from possibly sliding off the stack, fasten each hub to the hub below it by using the supplied brackets, as shown in Figure 2-4.

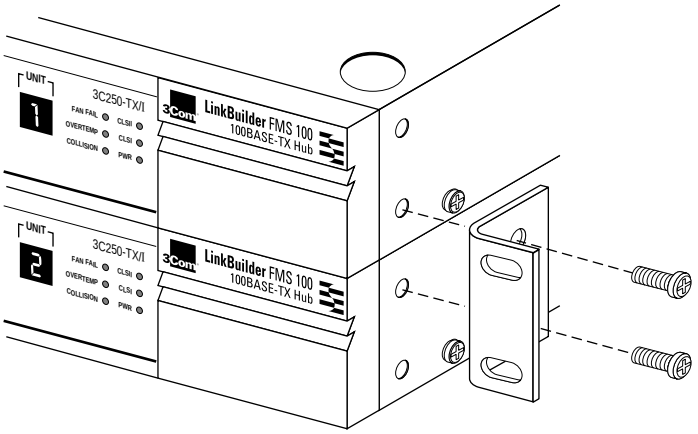

Figure 2-4 Attaching a Bracket for Desktop Placement

Installing the Transceiver Interface Modules

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub chassis is equipped with a rear panel port into which you can insert an optional 3Com transceiver interface module. The transceiver interface module permits connections to a 100 Mbps Ethernet station or a network backbone that is also running 100 Mbps Ethernet. The two types of transceiver interface modules are shown in Figure 2-5. Table 2-1 describes the two 100 Mbps modules.

Table 2-1 Transceiver Interface Modules

Module Type	3Com Part Number	Connector	Cabling
100BASE-TX	3C252-TX	RJ-45	Category 5 UTP cabling
100BASE-FX	3C262-FX	Multimode fiber SC connector	Two-strand (62.5/125µ) fiber-optic cabling

CAUTION: *Each module is packed in antistatic material to protect it during shipment. To avoid damaging any static-sensitive components after removal from the container, be sure to reduce any static electricity on your person. One way to do this is to touch the metal chassis of the hub. You can maintain grounding by wearing a wrist strap attached to the chassis.*

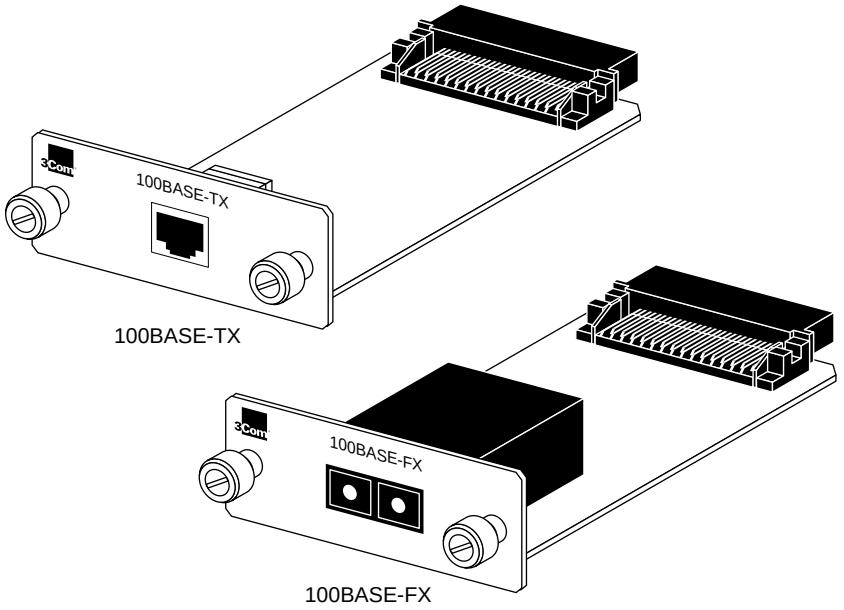

Figure 2-5 Transceiver Interface Modules

To install a transceiver interface module, follow these steps:

1 Disconnect the AC power cord from the individual hub into which you are installing the transceiver interface module.

You do not have to power down the entire stack to install a module in a single hub. If you are installing several modules, power down each hub before inserting its module.

2 Remove the blanking plate from the transceiver interface module port on the hub's rear panel by unscrewing the plate's two end screws.

The transceiver interface module port is shown in Figure 1-2.

Keep the blanking plate for possible future use in case you remove the module.

3 Carefully remove the transceiver interface module from its shipping container.

4 Slowly insert the module into the slot, being careful not to damage any of the components or connecting pins.

The module will slide into the hub following the tracks in the slot. The lettering that shows the module type must be positioned on top of the connector openings when the module is in place.

5 Push the module all the way in until the connector is firmly seated.

6 Tighten the two thumbscrews to secure the module in place.

7 Reattach the power cord to the hub.

8 Attach the proper cable to the module to make the desired network connection.

The ACTIVITY LED for the thirteenth port on the hub's front panel should be green, indicating the module is correctly installed.

Using the Redundant Power System

To ensure fail-safe operation and constant power to the hub stack, you can use the 3Com Redundant Power System (RPS) (part number 3C565047). The RPS must be purchased separately.

The RPS, which is rack-mountable, comprises two load-sharing bulk power supplies fed by two independent AC lines. Either power supply alone can support a stack of up to four hubs. Eight hubs in a stack will require two RPS units, one mounted on the bottom of the stack and the other on the top. Redundant fans protect against possible failures caused by overheating. The RPS front panel provides LED indicators for monitoring temperature as well as input and output status. In the event of a failure in one of the supplies, an alert is automatically sent to the management console.

The RPS cables are inserted into the DC input connectors on the hubs' rear panels. Remove the rubber protective cover from each DC input connector before connecting the RPS cable. Figure 2-6 shows the RPS mounted on top of a four-hub stack and connected to each hub.

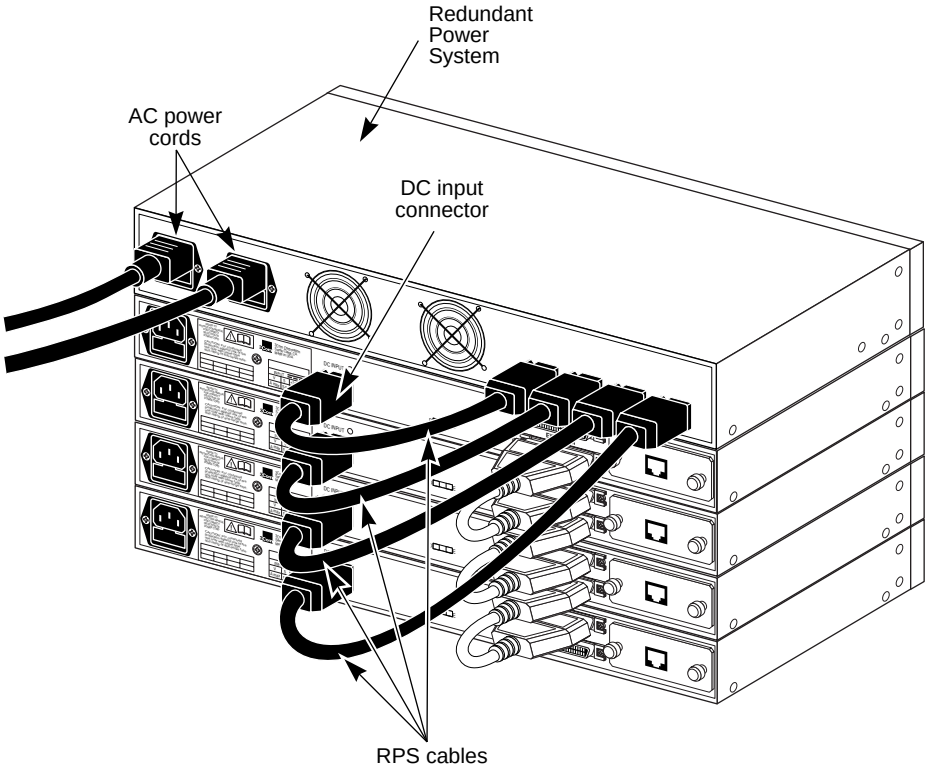

Figure 2-6 Connecting the Redundant Power System to Four Hubs

CAUTION: *If you use the Redundant Power System, do* ***not*** *use the AC power plug on the rear panel or the AC power cable that is supplied with each hub. Instead, use the RPS cable and insert one end into the RPS and the other into the DC input connector on each hub. If you do not use the RPS, you must connect each hub separately to an AC power source.*

Replacing the Fuse

If the hub's power (PWR) LED was lit initially but is no longer lit, one of the following conditions may have caused the LED to go out:

- The unit may be disconnected from its AC power source.
- If connected to an RPS, the unit may be disconnected from its DC power source.

  Verify that the RPS is on and securely attached to the hub.
- The AC power source may have failed.

  If you are using AC power, verify that the AC power cord is securely attached.

  If the LED is still not lit, the fuse probably needs to be replaced.

  The fuse is located in the hub's AC receptacle assembly on the hub's rear panel and is supplied as standard equipment for the hub. It is a fast-blow FSF034.1523 fuse or equivalent, rated at 2 A, 250 V.

  To replace the fuse, follow these steps:

1. Locate the AC receptacle on the hub's rear panel.
2. Disconnect the AC power cord.
3. Using a small screwdriver, carefully pry open and pull out the fuse-holder, as shown in Figure 2-7.

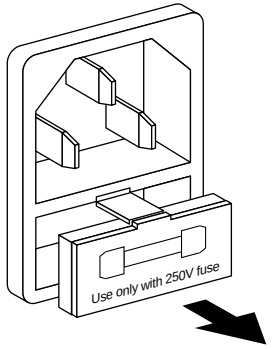

Figure 2-7 Opening the Fuse-holder in the AC Receptacle Assembly

4 Remove the burned-out fuse by pulling it straight out of its socket, as shown in Figure 2-8.

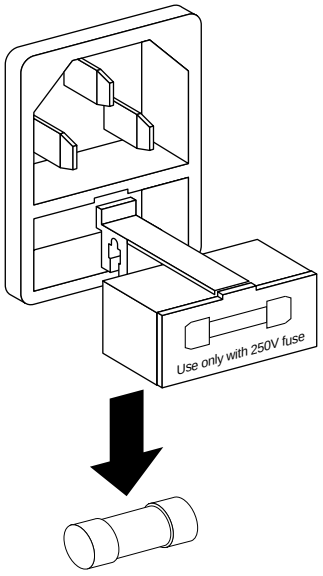

Figure 2-8 Removing the Fuse

If you wish, you can store a spare fuse in the front section of the fuse-holder.

5 Insert a new fuse, rated at 2 A, 250 V, in the fuse-holder.

6 Push the fuse-holder back into the AC receptacle until it snaps in place, and reconnect the AC power cord.

If the PWR LED remains off, contact your network supplier.

3 MAKING FMS 100-TX HUB CONNECTIONS

This chapter discusses how to use the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub in various network environments. The chapter also discusses how to interpret the hub's LEDs and how to use the power-up disabled option.

Making Network Connections

Table 3-1 summarizes the possible schemes for connecting the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub in a 100BASE-T network. These connections are the only ones permitted for a Class I device such as the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub.

Table 3-1 LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub Network Connections

Hub Connection	Connectors	Cabling Required	Purpose
To node	RJ-45 port	Straight-through UTP	Connects PCs, servers, and other network devices directly to the hub
	Transceiver interface module:		
	100BASE-TX	Straight-through UTP	
	100BASE-FX	Fiber	
To another hub in the stack	Expansion connector	Expansion cable	Connects as many as eight hubs to each other to form a single logical stack
To Management Unit	Expansion connector	Expansion cable	Connects hub or hub stack to a Management Unit
To network backbone	Transceiver interface module:		Connects hub or hub stack to network backbone through a bridge, router, or switch
	100BASE-TX	Straight-through or cross-over UTP depending on device	
	100BASE-FX	Fiber	
	RJ-45 port	Straight-through or cross-over UTP depending on device	

Connections that use the 100BASE-TX module are identical to those that use an RJ-45 port on the hub's front panel.

Hub to Node

Once installed, the hub can support up to 12 end node connections. Figure 3-1 shows 11 PCs and one server connected to the RJ-45 ports on the hub's front panel. You can connect any combination of PCs, servers, and other hubs to the 12 RJ-45 ports. (The thirteenth port permits an additional connection through the transceiver interface module located on the hub's rear panel. See the section "Installing the Transceiver Interface Modules" in Chapter 2.)

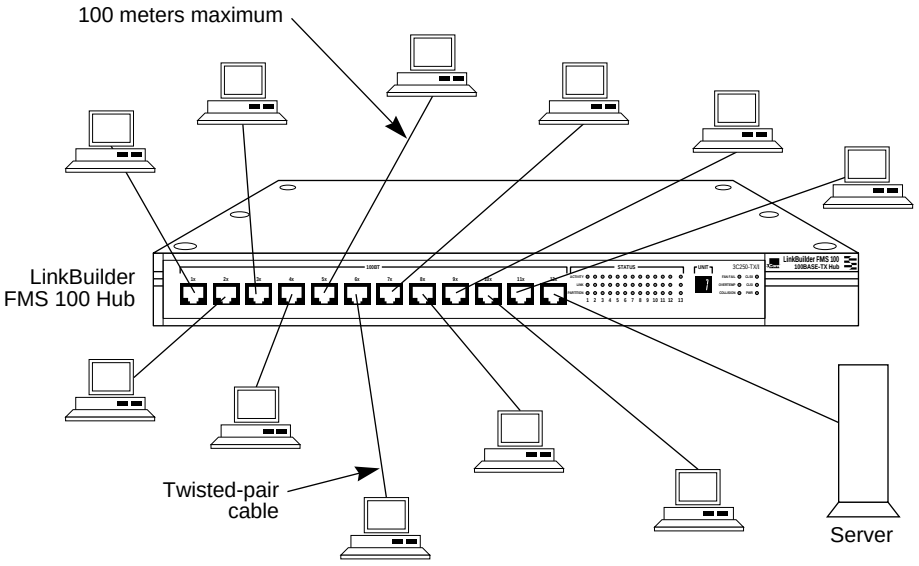

Figure 3-1 LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub Supporting 11 Users and a Server

The maximum allowable distance between the hub and a PC, server, or other device is 100 meters of Category 5 UTP cable. The UTP cable used for hub-to-node connections is a straight-through connection. That is, no crossovers should be present. The pin assignments for a straight-through cable are shown in Figure 3-2. Refer to Chapter 4 for cabling details.

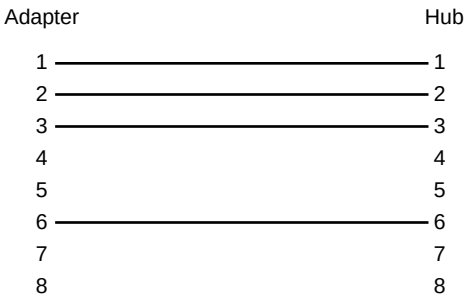

Figure 3-2 Pin Assignments for Straight-Through Cabling

The pin assignments for the 100BASE-TX transceiver interface module are the same as the pin assignments for the RJ-45 ports on the hub's front panel. Figure 3-3 shows the RJ-45 connector pin assignments.

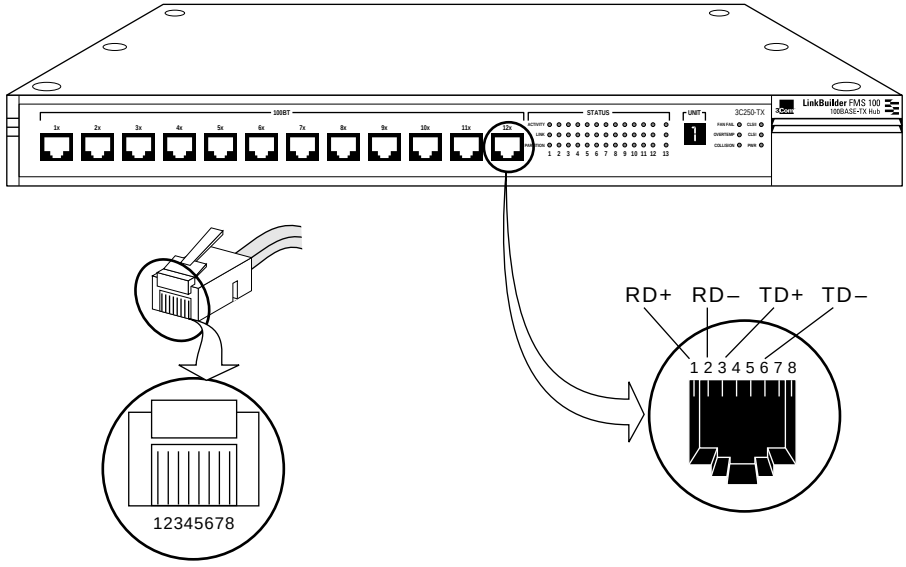

Figure 3-3 RJ-45 Connector Pin Assignments

Hub-to-Hub Interconnection

You can interconnect up to eight hubs, using expansion cables to form one logical unit. (The hub expansion cable is also designated the inter-hub bus [IHB] cable.) Interconnecting eight hubs will provide a maximum of 104 ports (96 RJ-45 ports from the front panels and 8 ports from the transceiver interface modules inserted in the hubs' rear panels).

You do not have to turn off the power if you are connecting hubs using expansion cables.

Use the hub expansion cable (3C219) to connect the UP expansion port on the rear panel of one hub to the DOWN expansion port on the next hub, as shown in Figure 3-4. (The hub expansion cable must be purchased separately.) Repeat this step for each hub in the stack.

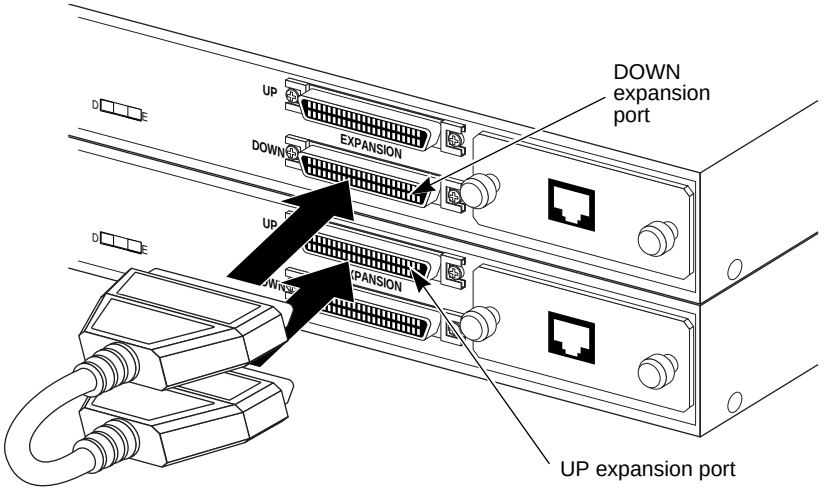

Figure 3-4 Interconnecting Two Hubs

Hub to Management Unit

You can connect the hub (or a hub stack) to a Management Unit by using the expansion cable. Connect the UP expansion port on the hub's rear panel to the DOWN expansion port on the Management Unit's rear panel, as shown in Figure 3-5.

3Com strongly recommends that you place the Management Unit on top of the hub stack, so it will be unit number 1. This will ensure that existing nonvolatile port configuration information is applied to the correct physical unit in the stack.

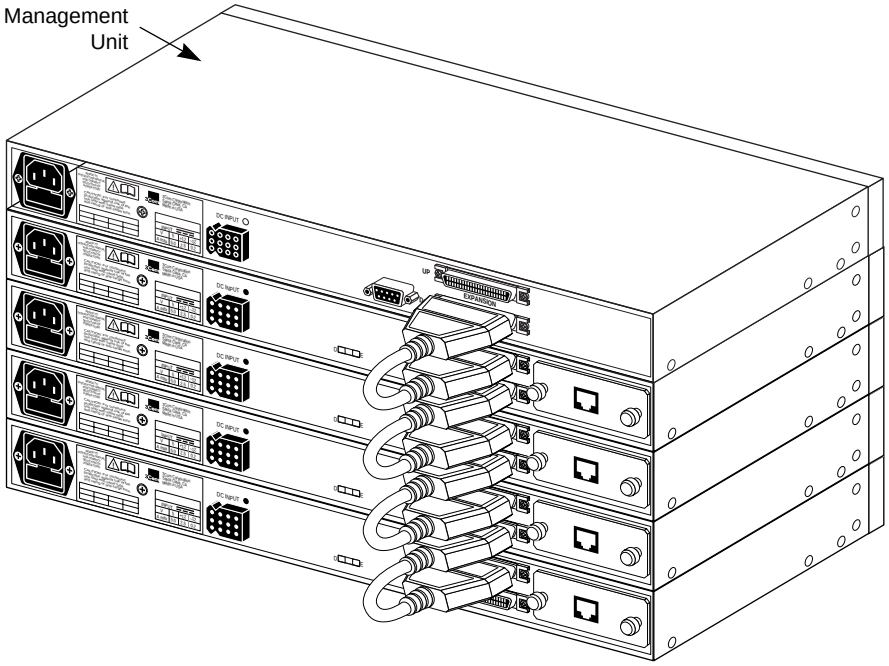

Figure 3-5 Connecting a Hub Stack to a Management Unit

The maximum number of units in a stack is eight *including* the Management Unit. If you wish, you can add two Redundant Power Systems to a stack of eight units (seven hubs and one Management Unit, or eight hubs with no other device).

Hub to Backbone

You can connect hubs and hub stacks to the network backbone through the transceiver interface module on the rear panel via a bridge, router, or switch, using either Category 5 UTP or fiber cabling. Figure 3-6 shows single and interconnected hubs connected to a network backbone.

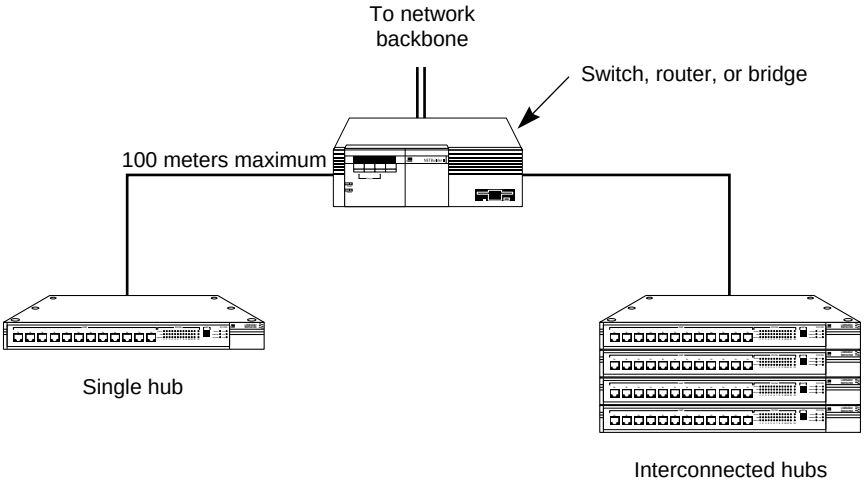

Figure 3-6 Connecting Hubs to the Network Backbone

Using Transceiver Interface Modules

Two types of transceiver interface modules are available for connecting the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub to the LAN. By inserting the appropriate transceiver interface module in the hub's thirteenth port, you can use either UTP or fiber-optic cabling to connect the hub to various LAN devices. For example, you can connect the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub to a multiport bridge or switch using the 100-TX module and gain access to a 10BASE-T network. Likewise, by using the 100BASE-FX module, you can attach the hub to a switch that is connected via fiber cabling to the network. (See the next section for a discussion of using the hub to access multisegmented networks.)

The required cabling for the two transceiver interface modules is as follows:

- 100BASE-TX module: Category 5 two-pair UTP cabling
- 100BASE-FX module: two-strand 62.5/125 µ multimode fiber cabling

Connections to a server or PC from one of the transceiver interface modules require straight-through cabling.

Considerations for Multisegmented Networks

The 100BASE-T technology defined in the IEEE 802.3 standard provides for both homogeneous CSMA/CD 100 Mbps networks and heterogeneous 10/100 Mbps mixed networks. Both network topologies can be supported by connecting various LAN segments using repeaters and switches, bridges, or routers.

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub supports only the 100 Mbps network topology. Access to 10 Mbps functionality is possible through connections with switches, bridges, or routers that support 10/100 Mbps topologies.

Two LAN segments connected by a repeater constitute a single collision domain. LAN segments connected by switches, bridges, or routers constitute multiple collision domains. You can achieve maximum network flexibility by designing multiple collision domain networks.

For example, a combined system containing both 10BASE-T and 100BASE-T devices and built with repeaters and switches can deliver dedicated 100 Mbps, shared 100 Mbps, dedicated 10 Mbps, and shared 10 Mbps services to devices on the LAN. Figure 3-7 illustrates a network composed of two collision domains connected by a 10/100 Mbps switching hub.

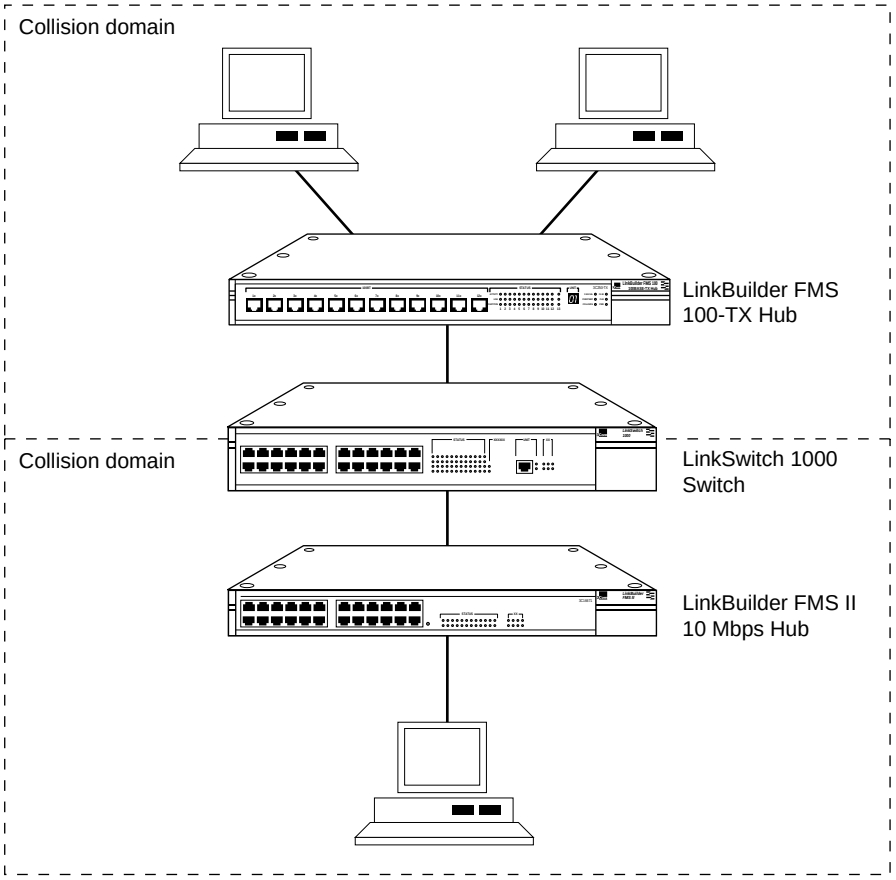

Figure 3-7 10 and 100 Mbps Collision Domains Connected by a Switching Hub

A Fast Ethernet packet transmitted on a LAN can pass through no more than two logical Class II repeaters or one logical Class I repeater before reaching its destination or passing through a LAN bridge, switch, or router.

Classification of Repeaters

The IEEE 802.3 standard defines two classes of repeaters for 100BASE-T Fast Ethernet networks, as detailed below.

Class I Repeaters

A Class I repeater is a hub with internal delay such that only one repeater can exist between any two DTE (data terminal equipment) devices within a single collision domain when two maximum-length cable segments are used.

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub (product number 3C250-TX/1) is a Class I device only.

Internal delay is the time delay between the sensing of the first data bit received and the sensing of the first bit transmitted on a 100 Mbps CSMA/CD network. Propagation time delays also affect repeater classification. Class I repeater delays are longer than Class II repeater delays.

A Class I network topology consists of one hub (or hub stack) in a single collision domain existing between any two end stations. The stack of LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hubs in this configuration can contain up to eight hubs.

Figure 3-8 shows a single collision domain containing one Class I hub stack between two end stations, with the distance between end stations being 200 meters. If one of the hub-to-node segments is implemented with fiber cabling (by using the 100BASE-FX transceiver interface module), the total span can be 260.8 meters. That is, up to 100 meters can consist of UTP cabling, with up to 160.8 meters of fiber cabling.

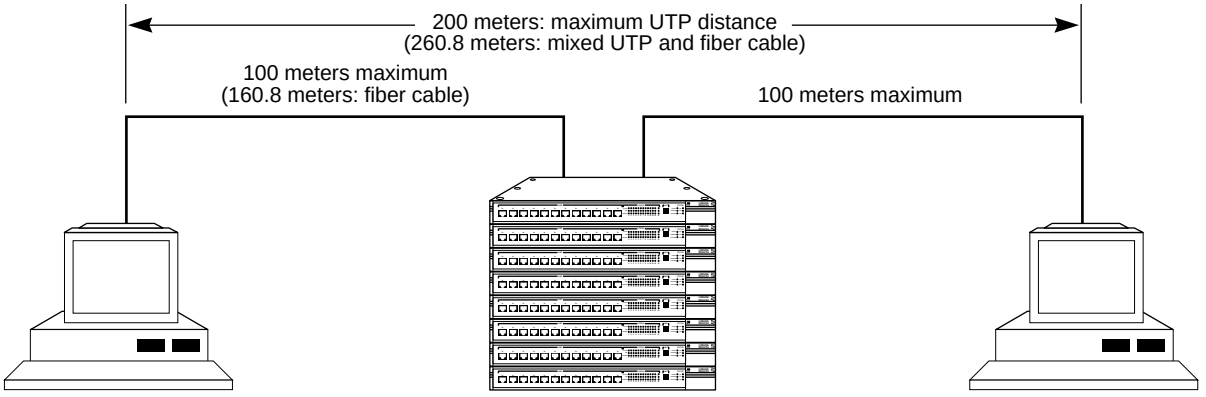

Figure 3-8 Class I Hub

Class II Repeaters

A Class II repeater is a hub with internal delay such that no more than two hubs can exist between any two DTE devices within a single collision domain when two maximum-length cable segments are used. The Class II network topology allows two hubs (or hub stacks) to exist between any two end stations.

Figure 3-9 shows a two-repeater collision domain containing two hubs between two end stations that are located 205 meters apart. This is the total allowable span for UTP cable.

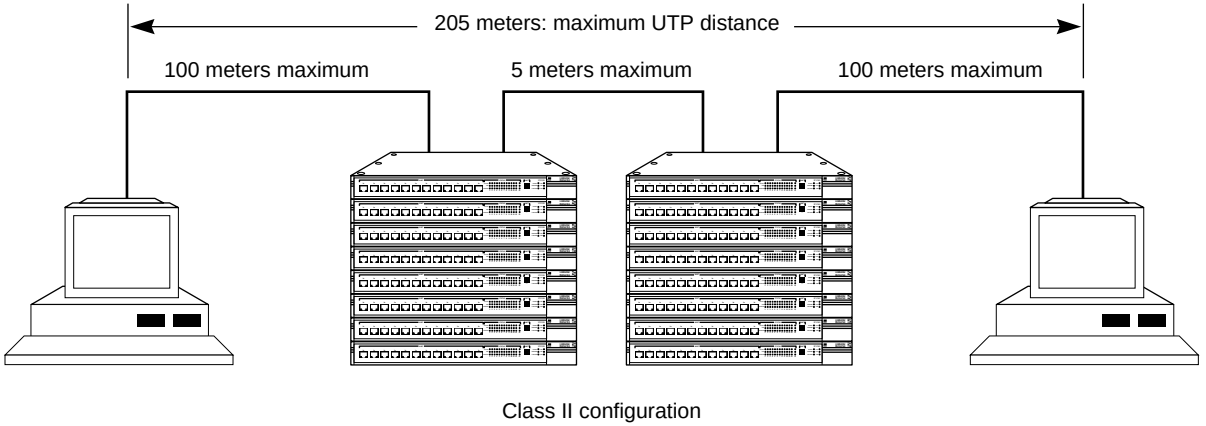

Figure 3-9 Class II Hubs

LED Descriptions

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub is equipped with front panel LEDs to provide port status and hub information (see Figure 3-10).

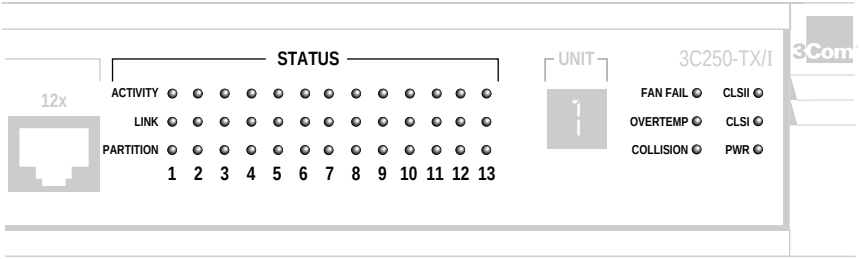

Figure 3-10 LED Indicators

Status LEDs

Table 3-2 interprets the meaning of the port STATUS LEDs.

Table 3-2 Port LEDs

LED	Color	Status	Meaning
ACTIVITY	Green	ON	The port is receiving data.
		OFF	The port is not receiving data.
LINK	Green	ON	A connection exists between the port and the end node.
		OFF	There is no connection between the port and the end node.
PARTITION	Amber	ON	The port is partitioned because of excessive collisions (more than 127 consecutive collisions) or because long packets (longer than 5 milliseconds) are being sent over the network. If a port is partitioned, it is automatically reconnected to the network when the problem no longer exists.
		OFF	The port is not partitioned.

Operation LEDs

Table 3-3 interprets the meaning of the hub operation LEDs.

Table 3-3 Hub Operation LEDs

LED	Color	Status	Meaning
FAN FAIL	Amber	ON	One or both of the two internal fans have failed.
OVERTEMP	Amber	ON	The internal temperature exceeds 158° F (70° C).
COLLISION	Green	ON	The segment is experiencing collisions.
CLS II (Class II)		OFF	The FMS 100-TX Hub does not support Class II configuration. This LED is nonfunctional.
CLS I (Class I)	Green	ON	The FMS 100-TX Hub supports Class I configuration, which means that only one repeater or hub stack can be used between two end stations.
PWR (Power)	Green	ON	The hub is receiving power.

Unit Digital Display

The front panel unit digital display (see Figure 3-11) provides a numeric designation for each component in a hub stack, including a Management Unit if one is present. Unit numbers are assigned dynamically as the units are plugged into the stack. The Management Unit ID is assigned after the Power-On Self-Test (POST) has run. The number 1 indicates the device that has no other unit above it; in other words, the hub (or Management Unit) that is on the top of the stack and connected by a hub expansion cable to the component immediately below it.

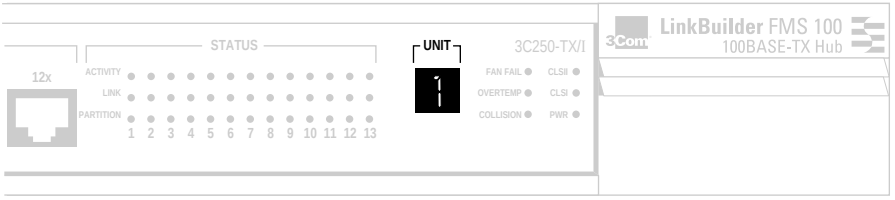

Figure 3-11 Unit Digital Display

Power-Up Disabled Option Switch

If network management is present, an external switch on the hub's rear panel allows you to power-up the hub with the ports disabled. The power-up disabled option switch is located between the expansion connectors and the DC input connector, as shown in Figure 3-12.

This feature cannot be fully implemented unless a network management device (such as the LinkBuilder FMS 100 Management Unit) is connected to the hub stack. If no network management is present, leave the power-up disabled option switch in the enabled position (set to E).

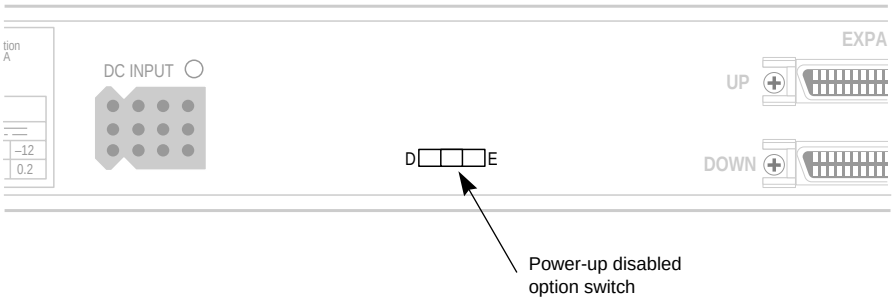

Figure 3-12 Power-Up Disabled Option Switch

Table 3-4 describes the functioning of the power-up disabled option switch.

Table 3-4 Settings on Power-Up Disabled Option Switch

Setting	Result
D (disabled)	If network management is present, you can enable specific ports after the hub has been powered-up.
	If network management is not present, all ports remain disabled after the hub has been powered-up.
E (enabled)	This is the default setting. All ports are enabled after the hub has been powered-up, whether or not network management is present. If network management is present, individual ports can then be disabled after the hub has been powered-up.

You can use this option for security purposes. For example, you can disable a port where a faulty device or other problem exists. This prevents the disabled port from receiving any data when the hub is powered-up. Conversely, you can enable ports if you want them to receive data.

4 CABLING

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub supports Fast Ethernet cabling and topology requirements, as detailed in the IEEE 802.3 specification. Fast Ethernet preserves the 100-meter maximum UTP cable length from the hub to the desktop that is a requirement for 10 Mbps Ethernet. Two 100 Mbps topology rules are different from those for 10 Mbps Ethernet:

- The maximum number of repeaters in a collision domain is two. (For additional information, refer to the sections "Considerations for Multisegmented Networks" and "Classification of Repeaters" in Chapter 3.)

The LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub only supports one repeater in a collision domain.

- In a single collision domain, the maximum network diameter is 200 meters with Category 5 UTP cabling only, or 260.8 meters with one fiber-optic cabling link. Refer to Table 4-1 for a summary of maximum cable lengths.

Table 4-1 Maximum Network Collision Domain Diameters

Model	Maximum Cable Length	Media
Hub to connected workstations	100 meters	Straight-through UTP cable
One Class I repeater	200 meters	Straight-through UTP cable
	260.8 meters	Combined UTP and fiber cable

Transceiver Interface Module Cabling Requirements

The two transceiver interface modules provide downlink connectivity to another hub or to a bridge, router, or switch. For transceiver interface module connections, the hub supports 100BASE-T functionality using the following media specifications:

- 100BASE-TX: two pairs of Category 5 twisted-pair UTP wire
- 100BASE-FX: two-strand fiber-optic cabling (62.5/125 µ multimode cable)

Topology Rules

The key 100BASE-T topology rules are illustrated in this section.

Hub to Connected Workstations

The maximum UTP cable length between the hub and connected workstations is 100 meters. (See Figure 4-1.)

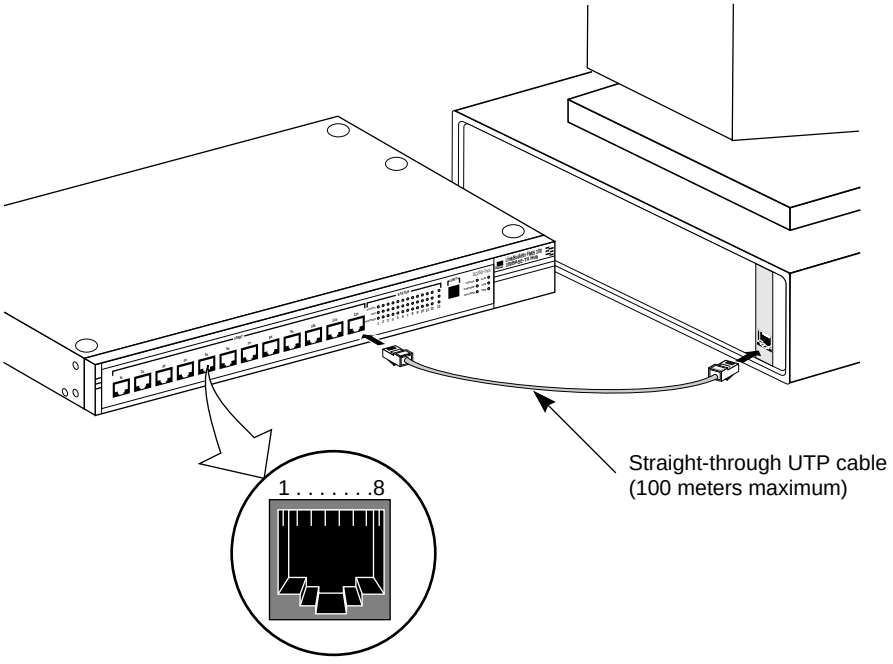

Figure 4-1 Connecting the Hub to a Workstation

One Class I Repeater

A total network span of 260.8 meters (combined UTP and fiber cabling) is allowed in single-Class I hub topologies (one hub stack per wiring closet with a fiber run to the collapsed backbone). For example, you could use a 160.8-meter fiber downlink from the hub to a router, bridge, or switch with a 100-meter maximum UTP run from the hub to the desktops. (See Figure 4-2.)

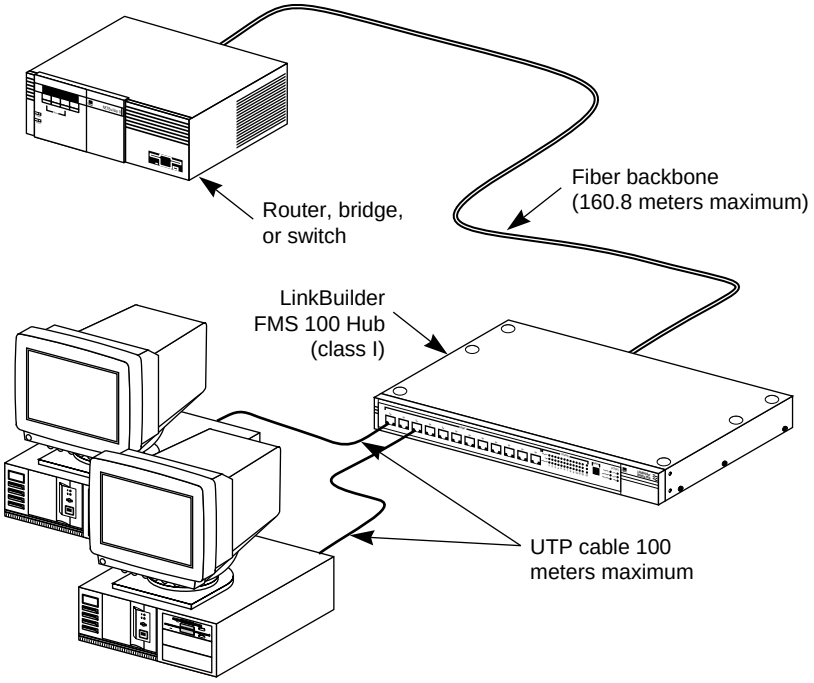

Figure 4-2 Connecting the Hub in a Network Span of 260.8 Meters

The maximum network span using only UTP cabling is 200 meters. If only fiber cable is used, the maximum span in 272 meters.

If greater distances and more ports are required, you can use an internetworking device (such as a bridge, router, or switch) to isolate traffic between workgroups. This would divide the network into a number of independent segments, as illustrated in Figure 4-3.

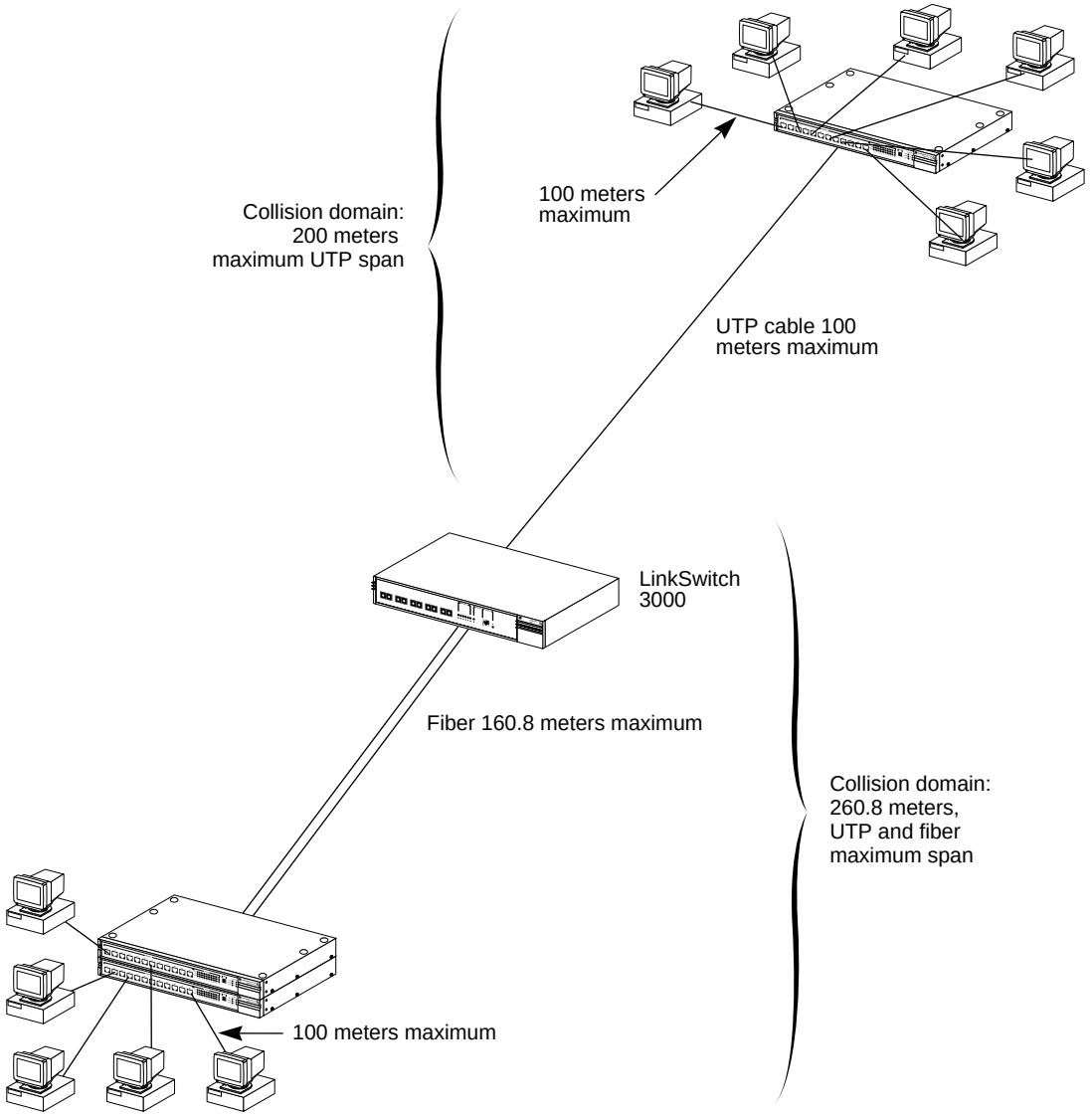

Figure 4-3 Using an Internetworking Device to Extend the Network Span

A SPECIFICATIONS

This appendix lists the specifications for the LinkBuilder FMS 100-TX Hub.

Hub Specifications

Physical Dimensions

Length:	30.48 cm (12 in.)
Width:	43.94 cm (17.3 in.)
Height:	4.37 cm (1.72 in.)
Weight:	5.5 kg (12 lb)

Environmental Operating Ranges

Operating temperature:	0˚ to 40˚ C (34˚ to 104˚ F)
Storage temperature:	–30˚ to 60˚ C (–22˚ to 140˚ F)
Humidity:	10% to 90% relative humidity, noncondensing
Altitude:	3,050 m (10,000 ft) operating

Power Requirements

AC input voltage:	100–240 VAC, 47–63 Hz
Inrush current:	20 A peak for 1/2 cycle @ 250 VAC
AC input isolation:	2000 VAC
Power consumption:	40 W maximum
Heat output:	136.5 BTU/hr
User-replaceable fuse:	Fast-blow 2 A, 250 V

Repeater Classification	Class I

B TECHNICAL SUPPORT

3Com provides easy access to technical support information through a variety of services. This appendix describes these services.

On-line Technical Services

3Com offers worldwide product support seven days a week, 24 hours a day, through the following on-line systems:

- 3Com Bulletin Board Service (3ComBBS)
- World Wide Web site
- 3ComForum on CompuServe®
- 3ComFacts℠ automated fax service

3Com Bulletin Board Service

3ComBBS contains patches, software, and drivers for all 3Com products, as well as technical articles. This service is available via modem or ISDN seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Access by Modem

To reach the service by modem, set your modem to 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit. Call the telephone number nearest you:

Country	Data Rate	Telephone Number
Australia	up to 14400 bps	(61) (2) 9955 2073
France	up to 14400 bps	(33) (1) 69 86 69 54
Germany	up to 9600 bps	(49) (89) 627 32 188 **or** (49) (89) 627 32 189
Hong Kong	up to 14400 bps	(852) 2537 5608
Italy (fee required)	up to 14400 bps	(39) (2) 273 00680
Japan	up to 14400 bps	(81) (3) 3345 7266
Singapore	up to 14400 bps	(65) 534 5693
Taiwan	up to 14400 bps	(886) (2) 377 5840
U.K.	up to 28800 bps	(44) (1442) 278278
U.S.	up to 28800 bps	(1) (408) 980 8204

Access by ISDN

ISDN users can dial-in to 3ComBBS using a digital modem for fast access up to 56 Kbps. To access 3ComBBS using ISDN, dial the following number:

(408) 654 2703

World Wide Web Site

Access the latest networking information on 3Com's World Wide Web site by entering our URL into your Internet browser:

`http://www.3Com.com/`

This service features news and information about 3Com products, customer service and support, 3Com's latest news releases, selected articles from 3TECH™ (3Com's award-winning technical journal) and more.

3ComForum on CompuServe

3ComForum is a CompuServe-based service containing patches, software, drivers, and technical articles about all 3Com products, as well as a messaging section for peer support. To use 3ComForum, you need a CompuServe account.

To use 3ComForum:

1. Log on to CompuServe.
2. Enter **`go threecom`** .
3. Press [Return] to see the 3ComForum main menu.

3ComFacts Automated Fax Service

3Com Corporation's interactive fax service, 3ComFacts, provides data sheets, technical articles, diagrams, and troubleshooting instructions on 3Com products 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call 3ComFacts using your touch-tone telephone. International access numbers are:

Country	Telephone Number
Hong Kong	(852) 2537 5610
U.K.	(44) (1442) 278279
U.S.	(1) (408) 727 7021

Local access numbers are available within the following countries:

Country	Telephone Number	Country	Telephone Number
Australia	800 123853	Netherlands	06 0228049
Belgium	0800 71279	Norway	800 11062
Denmark	800 17319	Portugal	0505 442607
Finland	98 001 4444	Russia (Moscow only)	956 0815
France	05 90 81 58	Spain	900 964445
Germany	0130 8180 63	Sweden	020 792954
Italy	1678 99085	U.K.	0800 626403

Support from Your Network Supplier

If additional assistance is required, contact your network supplier. Many suppliers are authorized 3Com service partners who are qualified to provide a variety of services, including network planning, installation, hardware maintenance, application training, and support services.

When you contact your network supplier for assistance, have the following information ready:

- Diagnostic error messages
- A list of system hardware and software, including revision levels
- Details about recent configuration changes, if applicable

If you are unable to contact your network supplier, see the following section on how to contact 3Com.

Support from 3Com

If you are unable to receive support from your network supplier, technical support contracts are available from 3Com.

In the U.S. and Canada, call **(800) 876-3266** for customer service.

If you are outside the U.S. and Canada, contact your local 3Com sales office to find your authorized service provider:

Country	Telephone Number
Australia (Sydney)	(61) (2) 959 3020
(Melbourne)	(61) (3) 653 9515
Belgium*	0800 71429
Brazil	(55) (11) 546 0869
Canada	(905) 882 9964
Denmark*	800 17309
Finland*	0800 113153
France*	05 917959
Germany*	0130 821502
Hong Kong	(852) 868 9111
Ireland*	1 800 553117
Italy*	1678 79489

Country	Telephone Number
Japan	(81) (3) 3345 7251
Mexico	(525) 531 0591
Netherlands*	06 0227788
Norway*	800 13376
Singapore	(65) 538 9368
South Africa	(27) (11) 803 7404
Spain*	900 983125
Sweden*	120 795482
Taiwan	(886) (2) 577 4352
United Arab Emirates	(971) (4) 349049
U.K.*	0800 966197
U.S.	(1) (408) 492 1790

* These numbers are toll-free.

Returning Products for Repair

A product sent directly to 3Com for repair must first be assigned a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number. A product sent to 3Com without an RMA number will be returned to the sender unopened, at the sender's expense.

To obtain an RMA number, call or fax:

Country	Telephone Number	Fax Number
U.S. and Canada	(800) 876 3266, option 2	(408) 764 7120
Europe	31 30 60 29900, option 5	(44) (1442) 275822
Outside Europe, U.S., and Canada	(1) (408) 492 1790	(1) (408) 764 7290

GLOSSARY

10BASE-T The IEEE 802.3 physical layer specification for a 10 Mbps Ethernet network over two pairs of Category 3, 4, or 5 UTP wire.

100BASE-FX The IEEE 802.3 physical layer specification for a 100 Mbps Ethernet network over two strands of fiber.

100BASE-T The group of IEEE 802.3 physical layer specifications for a 100 Mbps Ethernet network over various wiring specifications.

100BASE-T4 The IEEE 802.3 physical layer specification for a 100 Mbps Ethernet network over four pairs of Category 3, 4, or 5 UTP wire.

100BASE-TX The IEEE 802.3 physical layer specification for a 100 Mbps Ethernet network over two pairs of Category 5 UTP or STP wire.

Backbone The main transmission medium used to interconnect the workgroup areas of a network. Fiber-optic cable is often used for the backbone connection.

CAT 3 Category 3 balanced cable. Balanced 100 Ω and 120 Ω cables and associated connecting hardware whose transmission characteristics are specified up to 16 MHz. Used by 10BASE-T and 100BASE-T4 installations.

CAT 4 Category 4 balanced cable. Balanced 100 Ω and 120 Ω cables and associated connecting hardware whose transmission characteristics are specified up to 20 MHz. Used by 10BASE-T and 100BASE-T4 installations.

CAT 5 Category 5 balanced cable. Balanced 100 Ω and 120 Ω cables and associated connecting hardware whose transmission characteristics are specified up to 100 MHz. Used by10BASE-T and 100BASE-T installations.

CDDI Copper Distributed Data Interface. FDDI over twisted-pair copper wire. *See also* FDDI.

Class I A type of 100BASE-T repeater with internal delay such that only one repeater or stack may exist between any two end stations within a single collision domain when two maximum-length copper cable segments are used.

Class II A type of 100BASE-T repeater with internal delay such that two repeaters or stacks may exist between any two end stations within a single collision domain when two maximum-length copper cable segments are used.

Collision A condition that results from concurrent transmissions from multiple sources within a single collision domain.

Collision domain A single CSMA/CD network. If two or more Media Access Control (MAC) sublayers are within the same collision domain and both transmit at the same time, a collision will occur. MAC sublayers separated by a repeater are in the same collision domain; MAC sublayers separated by a bridge, router, or switch are within different collision domains.

Ethernet A local area network standard defining a physical medium and its method of placing data, or packet signaling, on a cable. Access to the cable is based on CSMA/CD (carrier sense multiple access with collision detection).

Fast Ethernet A 100 Mbps technology based on the Ethernet CSMA/CD network access method.

FDDI Fiber Distributed Data Interface. The local area networking standard that provides high bandwidth for interconnecting computers and peripheral devices using a fiber-optic medium in a ring configuration.

The FDDI specification is made up of standards that correspond to the IEEE OSI model layers (on the physical and data link levels). These standards specify the physical interfaces, functions, and operations needed to support interoperability between devices.

Fiber-optic cable Cable consisting of a glass center, cladding, a buffer layer, strength members, and a cable sheath. The glass center supports the transmission of light signals.

FMS Flexible Media Stack. 3Com's family of stackable hubs.

Hub A device used to provide connectivity between network devices. Hubs perform the basic repeater functions of restorating signal amplitude and timing, detecting collisions, and broadcasting signals to lower-level hubs and network devices.

MAC Media Access Control. The data link sublayer that is responsible for transferring data to and from the physical layer.

MIB Management Information Base. A logical naming of all information resources residing in a network and pertinent to the network's management. Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) management uses a set of standard MIBs known as MIB II and other standard MIBs for FDDI, Ethernet, etc. In addition, vendors write proprietary MIB extensions for SNMP management of particular devices.

Partition A repeater function that isolates a particular port from the network because of an excessive number of collisions. Once the problem causing the collisions is corrected, the port is reactivated.

Repeater A device that extends the length, topology, or interconnectivity of the physical medium beyond that imposed by a single segment, up to the maximum allowable end-to-end trunk transmission line length. Repeaters perform the basic actions of restoring signal amplitude, waveform, and timing applied to normal data and collision signals. *See also* Hub.

SNMP Simple Network Management Protocol. A network monitoring protocol for TCP/IP-based networks. It is a simple request/response protocol used to communicate management information between the network management station and the agent residing in network elements. The protocol does not define the objects that can be managed. (The MIB defines manageable objects.) SNMP can be used with any network management variable that can be inspected and altered.

Standard Ethernet cable A 0.4-inch diameter cable comprised of two foil shields and two braids over copper wire. It requires an external transceiver cable or N-series to BNC series adapter. It is also called thick Ethernet cable. *See also* thin Ethernet cable.

STP Shielded twisted-pair. Shielded four-conductor electrical cable that offers high-speed transmission for long distances.

SuperStack 3Com system of stackable hubs, servers, switches, routers, SDLC converters, and power supplies. SuperStack systems can support a range of LAN environments, including Ethernet, token ring, FDDI, SNA, and ATM.

Thin Ethernet cable A cable standard for Ethernet (IEEE 802.3) networks using RG-58 A/U or RG-58 C/U cable and BNC connectors. The coaxial cable is 0.2 inches in diameter, so it is more flexible than thick Ethernet cable. Thin Ethernet operates at the same frequency as thick Ethernet but over a shorter distance, and it provides less insulation from interference than thick Ethernet.

Transceiver A hardware device that links a node to a network cable and functions as both a transmitter and a receiver.

Twisted-pair Wiring similar to that found in the telephone system, consisting of two insulated wires loosely twisted around each other to help cancel out induced noise in balanced circuits.

UTP Unshielded twisted-pair. A cable consisting of two or more pairs of twisted copper wires that are not shielded.

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